

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-94 (cancelled)

**95.** (new) A device that comprises a substrate comprising a surface coated with a hydrogel polymer blend composition, wherein the composition comprises (i) a first photo-crosslinked polymer and (ii) a different second polymer comprising a selective binding functionality, wherein the device is mass spectrometer.

**96.** (new) The device according to claim **95** wherein photo-crosslinking results from reacting benzophenone groups on the first polymer.

**97.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the first polymer is further crosslinked with the second polymer.

**98.** (new) The device according to claim **96**, wherein the first polymer is further crosslinked with the second polymer and the first and second polymers comprise a polysaccharide.

**99.** (new) The device according to claim **98**, wherein the polysaccharide is dextran.

**100.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the first and second polymers are in the form of an interpenetrating polymer network.

**101.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the first polymer comprises a polysaccharide.

**102.** (new) The device according to claim **101**, wherein the polysaccharide comprises dextran.

**103.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the second polymer comprises a polysaccharide.

**104.** (new) The device according to claim **103**, wherein the polysaccharide comprises dextran.

**105.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the first and second polymers comprise polysaccharides.

**106.** (new) The device according to claim **105**, wherein the polysaccharides comprise dextran.

**107.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the first polymer comprises a poly-acrylamide or a poly-methacrylamide.

**108.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the second polymer comprises a poly-acrylamide or a poly-methacrylamide.

**109.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the selective binding functionality is selected the group consisting of a positively charged moiety, a negatively charged moiety, an anion exchange moiety, a cation exchange moiety, a metal ion complexing moiety, a metal complex, a polar moiety and a hydrophobic moiety.

**110.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the selective binding functionality is a biospecific binding functionality.

**111.** (new) The device according to claim **110**, wherein the biospecific binding functionality is selected from the group consisting of antibodies, receptor proteins and nucleic acids.

**112.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the selective binding functionality comprises a group for covalently binding a molecule.

**113.** (new) The device according to claim **112**, wherein the selective binding functionality is an epoxide or a carbodiimidazole.

**114.** (new) The device according to claim 95, wherein the selective binding functionality is bound to an analyte selected from the group consisting of polypeptides, nucleic acids, carbohydrates and lipids.

**115.** (new) The device according to claim 114, wherein a matrix for laser desorption/ionization mass spectrometry is applied to the surface.

**116.** (new) The device according to claim 95, wherein the hydrogel polymer blend composition is covalently bound to the surface.

**117.** (new) The device according to claim 95, wherein the hydrogel polymer blend composition is physically attached to the surface.

**118.** (new) The device according to claim 95, wherein the hydrogel polymer blend composition is a film having a film thickness of about one micron to about 10 microns.

**119.** (new) The device according to claim 95, wherein the substrate comprises aluminum.

**120.** (new) The device according to claim 95, wherein the substrate comprises a primer layer that comprises a silane, a hydrocarbon silane, a fluorinated silane, a mixed fluorinated/hydrocarbon silane, a polymer, an alkoxy silane, a chlorosilane, an alkanethiol or a disulfide.

**121.** (new) The device according to claim 95, wherein the substrate comprises plastic, glass, silicon, metal, or metal oxide.

**122.** (new) The device according to claim 95, wherein the hydrogel is a uniform layer on the surface.

**123.** (new) The device according to claim 95, wherein the hydrogel is in the form of discreet spots on the surface.

**124.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the substrate is a biochip.

**125.** (new) The device according to claim **95**, wherein the hydrogel polymer blend composition further comprises an energy absorbing moiety.